

THE ALMA RECORD

BARCOCK & GROSSKOPF, Proprietors

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

WHAT NEXT?

The drive for Chamber of Commerce members has closed with a membership beyond the fondest expectations. It has been demonstrated beyond question of doubt that the people of Alma can accomplish great things by co-operation. Five hundred seventy members were obtained exclusive of the plural memberships of the factories which will add very materially to the number.

The remarkable thing about this effort is that it was made at a time when there was a business depression, and yet because of concerted action and enthusiastic work, the effort was crowned with unusual success; and it further developed that there were no knockers in Alma, for even those who were not able to take a membership at present because of financial conditions were enthusiastically in favor of the project.

We have just reason to congratulate ourselves upon the results of the splendid effort, but we must not stop with congratulations. The work of the Chamber of Commerce is ahead. We have simply obtained our membership and now comes the matter of completing the organization and laying out a program of constructive work that will justify the existence of such an organization and confirm the faith we have in the undertaking. If we stop now or lose our enthusiasm, we might better never have started. We must make the Chamber of Commerce a working organization and keep it working for the betterment of Alma all the time. If we are to do anything worth while, we must plan our work and then work our plan for all it is worth. We must keep in mind that the Chamber of Commerce is for the benefit of the whole city and that we all have an equal responsibility. It can only be worth while as we co-operate to make it worth while. Nothing can be accomplished without work, and that work must be done or directed by the membership. We must keep in mind the fact that it is an organization the purpose of which is to better conditions in our city, and also that the responsibility for the success of it rests upon us and upon no one else.

Very little will be impossible to us in the way of development if we believe in ourselves and are willing and think together for the good of our city, and it is equally true that nothing will be done unless we do it.

We wish to place The Record at the service of the Chamber of Commerce and will very gladly give space for any communications that are for the benefit of the work. If you have an idea, express it, for it may prove of great value, and cannot help but add to the interest and success of our own organization.

There is only one answer to the question, "What Next?" and that answer must be honest, hard, co-operative work, intelligently directed, for by it we can accomplish great things.

MILLERVILLE

On different occasions, articles and pictures have appeared in the Record regarding what has been commonly termed Millerville. The purpose of these articles has not been a personal matter but rather they were designed to call attention to conditions that should be remedied for the public good. What has been said about unsanitary conditions in the so-called Millerville holds good in many other parts of the city, and does not justify a continuance of these conditions, but on the other hand it demands a systematic effort on the part of the people responsible to rid the city of such conditions and to give all an equal chance for clean wholesome living quarters regardless of wealth or position.

It is a fact that the sewer and water mains were just recently extended to this part of the city, and we are glad to know that the actual residents, under the leadership of Mr. Hopkins are taking united action to bring about some worth while improvements.

To begin with the tract of land has been plotted and from now on will be known as the Highland View addition to the city of Alma. The sewer mains have been laid and connections will be made as rapidly as possible. This is a step in the right direction and we are glad to know that there is concerted action for better conditions. The people who live in that section of the city are entitled to the same degree of service that is given to any other part of the city, and they in turn should show the same degree of interest in wholesome conditions.

It is never the purpose of The Record to offer criticism just for the sake of criticism, and at no time does the personal element enter into it. We are interested in the growth and development of the city, and we feel that it is a part of the function and duty of a newspaper to fearlessly criticize that which deserves criticism, and heartily commend every uplifting influence.

We sincerely hope that Highland View addition may be made one of the most sanitary and pleasant parts of the city.

IMPORTED OPINION

According to "Who's Who," Mr. Matthew Woll, a vice president of the American Federation of Labor who has been in the lime-light quite often lately, was born in Luxemburg. Mr. Gompers, President of the Federation, was born in England; Mr. Morrison, Secretary, was born in Canada; Mr. Duncan, First Vice President, was born in Scotland. These facts are not cited with the view of drawing the conclusion that the officers of the Federation should all be native Americans. Far from it. Among our best citizens are men of foreign nativity. But it does seem rather incongruous that an "American" Federation of labor should not have even one native born American among its most active and controlling officials. It is true that some of the assistant vice presidents are natives of America, but they are not among the men who are known to the country as the leaders of the Federation. It might be a good idea to make a native born American door keeper for his influence.

MAKE GOOD, SAYS CAPPER

Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas is very much alive to the responsibilities assumed by the Republican party as a result of the recent elections. He does not let the huge majorities rolled up by his party blind his eyes to the fact that the new administration must make good in the next four years or it will be beaten just as decisively in 1924. "If the Republican party," says Senator Capper, "with its control of the House and Senate, does not carry out its pre-election promises; if it doesn't merit and gain public confidence by devoted and efficient service; if it doesn't do something before another four years to relieve the people from the swarm of buzzards that are praying upon them and upon the public welfare, I believe that four years hence it will be completely discredited as a party as the Democratic party now is."

Better be thinking over your New Year resolutions. You ought to be able to do better next year than you did this. You are one year older, have had a wider experience, and should have learned something from your contact with people this past year. Outline a plan of optimism, enthusiasm, and hard work not omitting thoughtfulness for others and then work hard your plan all the year of 1921.

An exchange very aptly remarks that sugar is down in price and so is flour, but it has been revealed now that baked goods are made of overhead expenses so it still requires considerable dough to buy them.

There is something every individual can do well. Find your work and do it with all your strength and skill.

TOY TREE TABLE DECORATION

Miniature Christmas Emblem May Be Surrounded With Presents Tied With Red Ribbon.

DECORATE the table with a Christmas tree, one of the toy ones, and pile around its foot a quantity of presents tied with red ribbons. These should be only what a college man would call "grinds"—perhaps a tiny tin piano for a would-be performer, a lantern for the one the points of whose jokes are difficult to see, a placid paper golf bag for the enthusiastic player, and so on, each with a rhyme or quotation, says Harper's Bazar. If one considers a goose a somewhat undignified bird, ducks may be exchanged for it, either the domestic fowl or the more expensive canvas-back or red-head. Fried celery is very good with duck, the crisp pieces dropped in batter and then cooked in deep fat. But the apple sauce croquettes should not be omitted even with this. For this informal dinner there is a very good and innocuous drink to serve with the heavy course—spiced cider, spiced and sugared to taste, cooked ten minutes and served hot.

YULETIDE THORN TREE SAVED

Blooming Glastonbury, Subject of Beautiful Legends of Christmas, Was Doomed to Destruction.

ONE of the most beautiful legends of Christmas is that of the Glastonbury thorn. The thorn tree grew at Glastonbury Abbey, in Somersetshire, and was supposed to have developed from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea. According to the legend, Joseph came to Glastonbury and while he was resting on a hill, afterward known as Weary All Hill, he struck his staff in the earth. The staff immediately grew green and budded, and at Christmas, time it blossomed into beautiful flowers.

One chronicler states that during Queen Elizabeth's reign the thorn had a double trunk, but that a somewhat bigoted Puritan, who disliked the tree because to his mind it smacked of popery, started to cut it down, and succeeded in demolishing one of the trunks. A miracle rescued the remaining trunk of the tree by causing a chip of wood to fly up and hit the Puritan in the eye, while at the same time he slipped and cut his leg. Later the tree was grubbed up, but a number of smaller trees raised from slips of the original are said to be owned by persons in the neighborhood.

Christmas Trees by Million

NURSERYMEN grow large quantities of Norway spruce for Christmas uses—rather more in the middle West, where conifers are not common in the woods, than on the eastern and western coasts, where they fringe every hillside. But the tree most commonly used is a short-needle pine found in the woods of Northern Michigan and Wisconsin. Early in September the Indians about the lumber camps of this region are set to work cutting these trees for the market, and by early November a little fleet of vessels makes its way down Lake Michigan, a Christmas tree hauled to the foremast of each one, that by this sign all may know that in their holds is a cargo which might tempt a Captain Kidd, but is far more precious than many a one for which good ships have been scuttled.

Our Commercialized Christmas.

Christmas is the decoration day of a commercial age. Then, as on no other day, we face with compassion those who have lost in our battles for wealth. For a moment we think of the thousands of children who have no share in that easy life we give our children, and must find the season's joy in the charity dinner. Along with the barter to which we have deposed our giving within our circle of acquaintances, we play at extending the spirit of the day to those who are the pawns of our industrial game. The Salvation army lass, standing cold and numb on the street corner, collecting funds for Christmas baskets for the poor, reminds us of the wreckage left in the wake of our prosperity. We give a trifle to help the poor temper the bitterness of the year with a couple of hours' good eating.

A PESSIMIST

Duck: I'll bet I get a raincoat, or a pair of rubbers, or something like that for Christmas.



Coffin-Shaped Pie Crusts.

Seiden, the antiquary, tells us that Christmas pies were formerly baked in a coffin-shaped crust to represent the cradle of the manger in which our Saviour was laid.

BEET GROWERS MEETING

An important meeting of the beet growers of this vicinity will be held at the City Hall here on Saturday afternoon at 1:00 o'clock, at which time there will be a discussion of the program of the beet growers next year, it is expected. All parties interested in the matter are urged to attend the meeting, as it is certain to be of more than passing interest to the beet growers.

Advertise your wants in The Record.

HOT BATTLE

Fresh Win Class Title From Sophs in Overtime Game.

In what was without a question the scrappiest interclass game ever staged in a series for the class championship of Alma College, the Freshman class basketball quintet defeated the fighting Soph aggregation on Tuesday evening by a score of 8 to 4 in an overtime game.

The guards on both the Yearling and Second Year teams did some stellar work during the entire fray, as the score indicates. Not until the overtime period started, after the two halves were played, could the Fresh aggregation pull away from the Sophs, so stiff was the battle, and the advantage only came to them on two long and somewhat lucky shots at the basket, Kirker getting one of these and Brewer the other, and the four point margin.

Early in the second half the score stood 3 to 3, and before the regulation time had come to an end both teams managed to annex another point on fouls.

Considerable credit goes to the Sophs for the brilliant game that they put up, as they were not accorded much chance, on dope at least, to hold the Fresh to such a close score.

The victory gives to the Freshmen class the interclass basketball championship of the college, the Yearlings having the only undefeated quintet of the four class teams.

The Senior-Junior game for the cellar title, which was to have been played Tuesday evening, was not fought out for some reason, and the two teams will now hold the basement honors together, as work on the Varsity team has been started.

LORADO TAFT

Well Known Sculptor Pleases Large Alma Audience.

Lorado Taft, one of America's known sculptors appeared here Monday evening, as the third number on the Alma Lyceum Course, and his address on "How Statues Are Made," proved highly interesting and instructive to the large audience that was at the Strand theatre in spite of the inclemency of the weather.

In opening his address Mr. Taft called attention to the materials that are used by a sculptor, and the tools that are used.

With sculptor's clay he built up a bust from life, using his assistant as the model, and amazed his audience with the ease and rapidity of his workmanship. Each step in the work was told to the audience. From this bust he then made numerous rapid changes in the shape of the head.

From a portrait of the Princess Lamballe, he indicated the changes in facial expression from youth to old age, explaining the various steps in a simple way, so that every one in the audience could grasp the import of every change.

The work of preparing molds was taken up and explained, and was followed by an explanation of the difficulties encountered in carving in marble.

NOMINATE OFFICERS

Auxiliary Will Stage Election on Tuesday, December 21.

The regular meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion was held Tuesday evening, December 14, 1920. Nomination of officers for the new year was in order. The following were nominated:

Green ticket: President, Miss Ruth von Thurn; vice president, Miss Louise McLaughlin; secretary, Mrs. Wm. Faber; treasurer, Mrs. Harry Ball; executive committee chairman, Mrs. Gorman.

White ticket: President, Mrs. Jerome Kanter; vice president, Miss Rose Ruff; secretary, Louise Dumas; treasurer, Mrs. Orville Allen; executive committee chairman, Mrs. Crenser.

The candidates thus nominated will be voted upon at a special meeting of the Auxiliary, which will be held in the Legion rooms December 21. The polls will be opened promptly at 7:30 p. m. and will close at 9:00. All members of the Auxiliary are requested to be out and to vote for their choices.

GOOD HEALTH, GOOD MORALS

Good habits, good health and good morals go hand in hand. Good habits make good health and good health is the first essential to good morals. A weak will is usually associated with a weak body. Overeating not only weakens the will through indulgence, but it fills the body with food poisons which overstimulate the nervous system, create a desire for stronger stimulants, and deplete the physical resistance. The person who controls his appetite is making it easy to build up a strong will that will exercise discretion in everything else; he is going far toward building up the physical strength and stamina that is one of the essentials to the development of the will power. Start a child right by teaching him to eat only the things that are good for him in moderation. This simple restraint will lay the foundation for that larger self-control that makes for real success in later life.—Mich. Public Health.



TAKE SANTA'S ADVICE

This jolly old fellow knows a lot—indeed he does! He knows the need of right glasses for faulty sight and recommends us as competent eye-sight specialists.

A pair of glasses makes an excellent Christmas gift

J. P. LOSEY

Registered Optometrist



Helping You Put the Joy in Christmas

We have slashed the prices on holiday slippers and shoes until the merry bells are bound to jingle for everyone who will take advantage of this real opportunity.

We are determined to do our part to make this a season of sensible giving. Every article at the price a bell-ringer.

Warm Slippers for Wintry Days

Ladies' Slippers

In a variety of colors both high and low cut

\$2.98 \$2.68
\$2.28 \$1.98

Children's Red Felt Slippers

high and low cut

\$1.18 \$1.38
\$1.88

Men's Felt Slippers, Brown, Blue and Gray

\$2.28 and \$2.78

What gift could be more practical and acceptable than a pair of shoes and rubbers for mother, sister and the baby—and remember our shoes are all priced extremely low. Exchangeable any time after Christmas.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year is the wish to everyone

D. W. ROBINSON

Our Last Plea

to the Folks of Alma and vicinity to buy

Useful Gifts

this Christmas

We would like to include in your list of Gifts such useful electrical presents as these:

Flat Irons
Percolators
Spot Lights
Table Lamps
Heating Pads
Toaster Stoves
Dads Lanterns
Travelers Lamps
Reading Lamps
Sewing Machine Motors
Toasters
Vibrators
Flash Lights Etc.

Western Electric and Rotapex Washers

Western Electric and Sweeper-Vac Vacuum Cleaner

Alma Electric & Battery Co.